

August 1, 1977

Leslie Goldman, Coordinator
Alaska Gas Pipeline Task Force
Executive Office of the President
Box NF
Washington, D.C. 20641

Dear Mr. Goldman:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment formally on President Carter's forthcoming September 1 decision relevant to the transportation of natural gas from Prudhoe Bay to what we in Fairbanks refer to as "the lower 48 states."

Since early 1973 the Association has been actively seeking methods of resolving problems created by a phenomena commonly referred to as "pipeline impact." Our work and that of others equally concerned has been limited to a continuous program of data gathering, analysis, and public dissemination of information on the social and economic effects of construction of the trans-Alaska crude oil pipeline on Fairbanks and on the 45 isolated villages, towns and settlements which surround Fairbanks in an area the size of the State of Texas.

Several years of time and effort have been invested in this work. During this period we have made repeated formal and informal requests to any one of several federal agencies which appeared to us to have clear agency responsibilities for resolving local problems resulting from trans-Alaska pipeline construction. With the single exception of the federal Economic Development Administration, which has indirectly financed this work with annual planning assistance grants to our Association, our efforts to secure federal assistance in resolving local and regional problems related to pipeline construction have produced little in the way of visible federal response.

To illustrate this problem, I have attached a copy of our published comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Federal Power Commission with respect to the El Paso-Alaska (CP 75-96 et al) proceeding. The FPC response which appeared in their FEIS also appears opposite the relevant paragraphs.